2. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is an oligonucleotide [or a bioequivalent thereof] and said penetration enhancer is a surfactant, a fatty acid, a bile salt, a chelating agent or a non-chelating non-surfactant.

3. (Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is an oligonucleotide in prodrug form [or a bioequivalent thereof].

25. (Amended) A method of treating an animal having or suspected of having a disease or disorder that is treatable in whole or in part with one or more nucleic acids comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, thereby treating said animal having or suspected of having said disease or disorder.

28. (Amended) A method of investigating the role of gene or gene product in an animal other than a human comprising administering to said animal a biologically active amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, thereby investigating said role of gene or gene product in said animal.

40. (Amended) A method of modulating gene expression in [cells, tissues or organisms] a cell, a tissue, or an organism comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 to said [cells, tissues or organisms] cell, tissue or organism, thereby modulating gene expression in said cell, tissue, or organism.

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the present application.

Claims 2, 3, 25, 28 and 40 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.